

095334 / 095334

DECISION



**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

20555

FILE: B-168384

DATE: FEB 19 1975

MATTER OF: Michael D. Duffy - temporary quarters - what is
reimbursable as actual subsistence expense

DIGEST: Employee who occupied a townhouse as temporary quarters on actual subsistence expense basis is entitled to reimbursement of charges for trash collection, telephone user service and cleaning of premises under OMB Circular No. A-56, section 8.4a, as part of lodging expense, providing expenses do not exceed limitation set forth in section 8.4c.

This decision involves the propriety of certifying for payment the reclaim voucher of Mr. Michael D. Duffy in the amount of \$95.80 for expenses he incurred while occupying temporary quarters as an employee of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

The record shows that Mr. Duffy was transferred from Juneau, Alaska, to Washington, D.C., and was authorized temporary quarters allowance in connection with his transfer. The temporary quarters in this instance consisted of a townhouse in Springfield, Virginia, which was occupied by Mr. Duffy between November 29, 1972, and January 27, 1973. During this period Mr. Duffy incurred certain expenses for the temporary quarters for which he was reimbursed under the pertinent regulations. An exception was taken by the certifying officer to three items presented for payment consisting of:

Trash Bill	\$ 7.80
Telephone Service	33.00
Cleaning	55.00
Total	<u>\$95.80</u>

Mr. Duffy reclaimed the amount and the certifying officer submitted the matter to this Office for an advance decision under the authority of 31 U.S.C. 82d.

In Mr. Duffy's case, the actual subsistence expense method for use of temporary quarters, is prescribed by section 8.4 of Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-56 revised August 17, 1971, which was in effect when the transfer took place.

095334 / 095334

Section 8.4 provides, among other things, as follows:

"* * * Allowable subsistence expenses include only charges for meals (including groceries consumed while occupying temporary quarters), lodging, fees and tips incident to meals and lodging, laundry, cleaning and pressing of clothing."

Subsection 8.4c prescribes a formula for the computation of the maximum amount allowable. We have been advised informally by the certifying officer that the maximum amount allowable was not reached in Mr. Duffy's case by payment of the original claim.

Under these circumstances and in view of our holding in 52 Comp. Gen. 730 (1973), we will not object to allowing the \$7.80 for trash collection, the \$55 for cleaning, and the telephone service charge of \$10 per month prorated over the period of occupancy as part of the lodging expense. The remainder of the telephone bill relates to the installation charge or to long distance telephone calls, neither of which is an allowable expense of occupying temporary quarters.

The reclaim voucher may be adjusted in accordance with the above and then certified for payment if otherwise proper.

R.F. KELLER

'Deputy' Comptroller General
of the United States